

## PRESENTATION OF THE ACADEMY PLAQUE TO FRANK GLENN, M.D.\*

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DR. Frank Glenn, a man of many parts and varying interests, was born in a small town in southern Illinois. St. Louis was nearby and there he received his B.A. and M.D. degrees from Washington University. He was fortunate while in medical school to have had personal contacts with such medical leaders and investigators as Dr. Evarts Graham, Dr. David Barr, Dr. Joseph Erlanger, and others. Drs. Herbert S. Gasser and Erlanger were developing the use of the oscilloscope in the study of the transmission of nerve impulses at that time. I have been told that Dr. Glenn had some difficulty with his examination in physiology in trying to measure and interpret the oscillographic recordings. His education was broadened by rooming at Mrs. Francis' boarding house, where he met Dr. Joseph Hinsey.

Although he was interested in surgery, his teachers, wisely I think, advised him to take an internship in medicine at the Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, N.Y. From there he went to the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston for his surgical training under Dr. Harvey Cushing. Again he had the opportunity to work with excellent surgeons who were active investigators.

A Gorham's Peters Traveling Fellowship allowed him to do research at Edinburgh and to visit other European, Indian, and Chinese clinics.

In 1932 he came down to the new New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center as first assistant resident surgeon to help Dr. George Heuer reorganize and reorient the department of surgery.

From then on he grew steadily in eminence and in the breadth of his interests. Following World War II, in which he served as lieutenant colonel, he returned to New York and in 1947 was appointed Lewis

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FRANK GLENN, M.D.

Atterbury Stimson professor of surgery at Cornell University and surgeon-in-chief at the New York Hospital.

Along the path of his career he has held so many positions of responsibility and has received so many awards and honors that it might embarrass him for me to enumerate them. However, he has been an excellent Socratic teacher, an investigator, and a leader in the development and organization of better surgery in this country.

He is an activist and not just a medical philosopher. For example, one of his more recent activities has been the development and support of a primate colony for use by all medical and scientific investigators in the New York City area. Dr. Glenn firmly believes that many experiments should not be carried out on man before they have been tested on a mammal closely related to and similar to man. He, therefore, has almost single-handedly raised very significant funds for the support of such a primate colony operated under the auspices of New York University.

The New York Academy of Medicine is another of his broad medical interests. He has been an active member for more than 40 years; he served on the Committee on Medical Education for eight years, was a trustee for two terms, and was president in 1961-1962.

Frank Glenn is a gentleman in the broadest sense of the word, sensitive to and thoughtful of others, and very proud of those young men who trained with him.

This Academy Plaque is awarded in recognition not only of his contributions to its activities, but also of a man who helped to elevate and improve medicine both in New York and in the United States.